

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 6, 2004. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 are pending. Claim 1 and 12 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11, 13-18, 22, 23, 25, 27-31 and 33 have been amended. Claims 35-37 have been added. Support for the claim changes and the added claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 4, 7, 9, 15, 18, 20 and 35-37 are in independent form.

The specification was objected to on formal grounds. In response, Applicants have added section headings and amended the continuing application data. In regard to the continuing application data, it is noted that the application number of the parent application was added to the specification in the Second Preliminary Amendment, which was filed on August 7, 2002. Because Applicants understand that that Amendment may not have been received by the Examiner, a copy thereof is enclosed herewith. No new matter has been added to the specification. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 9-11, 20-22, 25, 26 and 30-32 have been allowed and Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 27-29 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim.

Since Claims 4, 7, 15 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form accordingly, these claims are believed allowable. Since Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19,

23, 24, 27-29, 33 and 34 each depend from one or more of Claims 4, 7, 15, 18 or the allowed claims, these claims are also believed to be allowable.

It is noted that new Claims 35 and 36 each recite an analyser operable to analyse the data structure to identify positions in the grammar rules at which pauses can occur in the natural language input, and Claim 37 recites an analyser operable to analyse the data structure to identify positions in the grammar rules at which events in at least one further modality input can occur in the natural language input as a first modality input. In view of the statement of reasons for allowance given in the Office Action, Applicants submit that Claims 35-37 are also allowable.

In regard to the statement of reasons for allowance, it is noted that the reasons cited do not accurately recite the analyzing and generating means of independent Claim 9 or the analyzing and generating steps of independent Claim 20. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the allowed claims is allowable for its combination of claimed features.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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01263.001427.1 (1263.1427 CIP)



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
NICHOLAS DAVID FORTESCUE, ET AL. )      Examiner: Unassigned  
Appln. No.: 09/699,510      )      Group Art Unit: 2641  
Filed: October 31, 2000      )  
For: NATURAL LANGUAGE INPUT      )      August 7, 2002  
METHOD AND APPARATUS      :  
:

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Second Preliminary Amendment, Request for Issuance of Corrected Filing Receipt and  
Contingent Petition to Claim Benefit Under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3)

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter the following Second Preliminary Amendment and Applicants respectfully request the Commissioner to grant the following Request and Petition.

*Request for Issuance of Corrected Filing Receipt*

The January 24, 2002 official Filing Receipt does not identify the present application as being a continuation-in-part application of parent application no. 10/042,716. But the present application is a continuation-in-part application of parent application no. 10/042,716 and

Applicants are entitled to claim the benefit of the filing date of the parent application. This can be seen as follows.

1. The October 31, 2001 Preliminary Amendment of the present application amended page 1 of the application to add --This application is a continuation-in-part of the United States patent application entitled NATURAL LANGUAGE INPUT METHOD AND APPARATUS, filed October 26, 2000 by Nicholas David Fortescue and Robert Alexander Keiller.--. A copy of this Preliminary Amendment is attached.
2. The parent application did not yet have an application number when this Preliminary Amendment was filed so that the Preliminary Amendment could not refer to the parent application by application number.
3. The parent application was given application no. 09/696,280 in the July 15, 2002 official Filing Receipt (a copy of which is attached), and this application number was changed by the July 17, 2002 Decision on Petition (a copy of which is attached) to application no. 10/042,716.
4. Page 2 of the July 17, 2002 Decision on Petition in the parent application 10/042,716 recognized this parent application as being a parent application of a continuation-in-part application, identified as present application no. 09/699,510.
5. The present Second Preliminary Amendment amends the application to refer to the parent application by application number 10/042,716.

Since Applicants amended the application within four months of filing to claim the benefit of the filing date of the earlier application, since Applicants have amended the application

to identify the parent application by application number as soon as the parent application was given an application number, and since the Patent Office has recognized in the July 17, 2002 Decision on Petition that the present application is a continuation-in-part of parent application no. 10/042,716, Applicants submit that they are entitled to claim the benefit of the filing date of the earlier application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that a corrected Filing Receipt be issued, identifying the present application as a continuation-in-part application of parent application no. 10/042,716.

*Contingent Petition to Claim Benefit Under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3)*

In the event that the Patent Office denies Applicants' Request to issue a corrected official Filing Receipt because the Patent Office believes that Applicants did not make reference to the prior application under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2) within four months of the filing date, Applicant petitions the Patent Office to accept the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of the prior parent application under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(3). Applicants submit that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2) and the date the claim was filed (i.e., today August 8, 2002 by the filing of the present Second Preliminary Amendment) was unintentional because Applicants could not identify the parent application by application number until the Patent Office issued the July 15, 2002 official Filing Receipt in the parent application, which identified the parent application as application no. 09/696,280, and the July 17, 2002 Decision on Petition, which apparently changed the application number of the parent application to application no. 10/042,716. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the

required surcharge fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(t) to deposit account no. 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached for this purpose.

*Second Preliminary Amendment*

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Change the text at page 1, before line 1 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the text is also attached:

--This application is a Continuation-In-Part of the United States Patent Application No. 10/042,716, filed October 26, 2000, pending--.

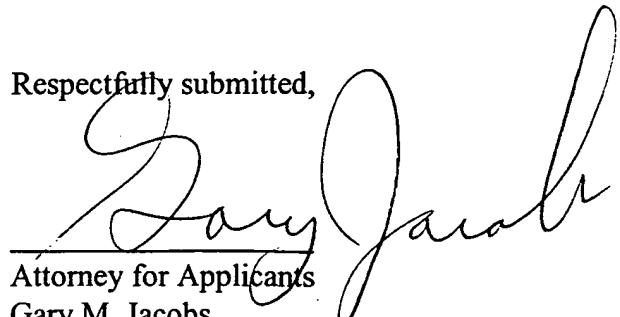
Remarks

Applicants are amending the application to provide the application number of the parent application, since the Patent Office has recently assigned an application number to the parent application.

Consideration and an early allowance are respectfully solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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